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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8562
INFO RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0119
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ 0117
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 6109
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: WAMBAN KANO OFFERS PRAISE, ASSISTANCE

Classified By: JOHN CAMPBELL FOR REASONS 1.4 (B & D).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: On February 6, Senior Counselor to the Kano Emirate Council, Wamban Kano, offered praise and assistance to the Ambassador for Embassy Abuja's Kano outreach efforts. As the most prominent traditional institution in Kano State, the Emir's Palace wields significant influence, which in turn may prove salutary for prospective USG engagement in Kano. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) The Wamban Kano commended the efforts of Embassy Abuja to foster and cultivate sustained relations with the Kano State Government and the Emir's Palace. To assuage anti-American sentiment, pervasive among certain groups in Kano, the Wamban offered to convene a panel of Kano's leading religious scholars to allow the Ambassador to explain USG foreign policy objectives and to shed light on life in America, including information on the sizable American Muslim population. He encouraged the Embassy to solicit the Palace's assistance in facilitating contact with the people of Kano to endow USG activities with ever-greater influence and credibility.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: The Wamban Kano, a traditional title holder in the court of the Emir of Kano, is an elder brother of the current Emir of Kano, Sanusi Ado Bayero. Similar to other title holders in Kano, the Wamban Kano administers a collection of villages outlying Kano, adjudicating local disputes, managing land tenure and resource allocation, and liaising with nearby communities to promote coexistence. Aging and less conversant in English than the Emir, the Wamban is presently positioning himself to take over as the next Emir - the fourth most important traditional figure in Nigeria, following the Sultan of Sokoto, Shehu of Borno, and Emir of Kebbi. Offering to permit Embassy exploitation of the resources and authority of the Emir's Palace may go a long way in furthering USG interests and improving our image in Kano State. END COMMENT.
CAMPBELL